

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 15 AND 16 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS
CONTROL INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. IN NEW YORK TIMES NEWS ANALYSIS FOLLOWING SENATE
APPROVAL MONDAY, 54 TO 44, OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MIDEAST
AIRCRAFT SALES PACKAGE, HEDRICK SMITH SAID SENATE'S WILLING-
NESS TO GO ALONG, "HOWEVER RELUCTANTLY," WITH DEAL "MARKS
POLITICAL WATERSHED IN AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH MIDDLE
EAST." SMITH SAID "SIGNIFICANCE OF VOTE WENT FAR BEYOND
ARITHMETIC OF JET SALES TO MORE DELICATE ISSUE OF JUST HOW

FAR AMERICA SHOULD GO IN COMBINING ITS TRADITIONAL COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL WITH NEW AND EXPANDING SUPPORT FOR ARAB MODERATES. 'SENATE HAS MADE POLITICAL JUDGMENT THAT ARABS SHOULD BE TREATED AS FRIENDS, NOT AS ENEMIES OR ADVERSARIES, AND THAT THIS IS COMPATIBLE WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL,' SAID ONE WHITEHOUSE AIDE. 'NOW, WE HAVE FIRM, GENUINE POLITICAL BASE TO WORK FOR MODERATE MIDDLE EAST NOT ONLY PEACE BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND MODERATE ARABS, BUT MODERATE BLOC OF ISRAELIS AND ARABS.'"

2. NEWSWEEK (MAY 22) REPORTED THAT WASHINGTON DIPLOMATS AND OTHER WELL-CONNECTED SOURCES NOW PREDICT CARTER-BREZHNEV SUMMIT MEETING IN SEPTEMBER, PROBABLY IN WASHINGTON. "BOTH U.S. AND SOVIET UNION WANT SUMMIT TALK AS SOON AS PRACTICAL AFTER THEY REACH SALT TWO AGREEMENT AND BEFORE IT GOES TO SENATE FOR RATIFICATION, AND EARLIER SPECULATION WAS THAT CARTER AND BREZHNEV WOULD GET TOGETHER IN JULY. BUT SEPTEMBER SEEMS MORE LIKELY FOR NUMBER OF REASONS, INCLUDING BREZHNEV'S UNCERTAIN HEALTH AND HIS NEED FOR REST AFTER RECENT TRIPS TO SIBERIA AND WEST GERMANY."

3. RICHARD L. STROUT OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SENT SECOND STRONG WARNING TO SOVIETS IN TWO WEEKS THAT IF THEY WANT SALT TREATY THEY HAD BETTER STOP ROLLING INTERNATIONAL WATERS. UNCLASSIFIED

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CARTER TOLD EDITORS FROM HISPANIC MEDIA LAST FRIDAY IN WASHINGTON THAT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA WITH CUBAN TROOPS IS "MAJOR OBSTACLE TO TRUST ON PART OF AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT SOVIETS WANT PEACE AND WANT TO HAVE SUCCESSFUL DETENTE EFFORT," STROUT REPORTED. HE RECALLED THAT IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, LAST MAY 5, CARTER HARSHLY CONDEMNED SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AS "DANGER TO NURTURING U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS." STROUT SAID RATIFICATION OF SALT AGREEMENT "LOOKS DIFFICULT, AND FAILURE OF RATIFICATION MIGHT HAVE DEVASTATING EFFECTS ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.... SALT THREE-YEAR WEAPONS MORATORIUM WITH TECHNICAL TERMS WOULD REQUIRE SOMETHING CLOSE TO AN ACT OF FAITH BY MAN IN STREET, IT IS NOTED HERE. WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER COULD EVOKE ENOUGH OF THAT FAITH FROM PUBLIC TO PUSH THROUGH VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS OF SENATE REMAINS TO BE SEEN....HOW BADLY MOSCOW WANTS SALT AGREEMENT IS IN DISPUTE HERE. MR. CARTER IN ANY EVENT IS TAKING SHARPER LINE IN WARNING AGAINST PROVOCATION ACTS IN AFRICA."

4. WASHINGTON POST AND BALTIMORE SUN PUBLISHED ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH FROM NEW YORK REPORTING THAT RONALD REAGAN DECLARED THAT SALT COULD BE NEXT ISSUE AROUND WHICH

CONSERVATIVES RALLY, AS THEY RALLIED EARLIER AROUND PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. REAGAN SAID ADMINISTRATION HAD ACTED AGAINST BEST INTERESTS OF NATION'S DEFENSE BY CANCELLING B-L BOMBER PROGRAM; "DILLY-DALLYING WITH REGARD TO NEUTRON BOMB" AND STRIVING IN CURRENT SALT NEGOTIATIONS TO OBTAIN ANY KIND OF AGREEMENT WITH KREMLIN, NO MATTER HOW POOR. HE SAID "WE'VE HAD SEVERAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMEN COME BACK FROM GENEVA, WHERE THEY'VE BEEN OBSERVING PRELIMINARY TALKS, AND THEY HAVE PUBLICLY CRITICIZED ADMINISTRATION AND NEGOTIATORS." HE SAID THOSE CONGRESSMEN, WHOM HE DID NOT IDENTIFY, HAVE STATED "IT LOOKS LIKE IN GENEVA THAT OUR PEOPLE SIMPLY WANT TREATY, GOOD OR BAD, AND THAT GOAL IS TO GET TREATY REGARDLESS." REGAN SAID IF ADMINISTRATION PRESENTS NEW SALT AGREEMENT "THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT

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PERHAPS LIKE SALT ONE, WE'RE GOING TO FALL FURTHER BEHIND SOVIET UNION, OR AT LEAST NOT MAKE ANY EFFORT TO CATCH UP, THEN YES, I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO SEE QUITE A FIGHT IN SENATE, AND IT WILL CROSS PARTY LINES."

5. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, IN REPORT PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON POST SATURDAY, SAID AMBASSADOR WARNKE SAID NEW SALT AGREEMENT MAY BE SIGNED IN MATTER OF "WEEKS RATHER THAN MONTHS." UPI QUOTED HIM AS SAYING ONLY TWO BASIC PROBLEMS REMAIN. "WELL OVER 95 PERCENT OF NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY IS COMPLETED," WARNKE REPORTEDLY TOLD FOREIGN POLICY CONFERENCE AT STATE DEPARTMENT. "THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT WE CAN COMPLETE IT IN WEEKS, RATHER THAN MONTHS." UPI SAID WARNKE CAUTIONED THAT HIS HOPE OF EARLY AGREEMENT "IS ONLY POSSIBILITY" AND THAT SUCCESS REQUIRES SOVIETS TO CHANGE THEIR POSITION, "PARTICULARLY ON NEW ICBM'S." UPI SAID WARNKE POINTED OUT THAT RESTRICTIONS ON NEW FAMILY OF SOVIET ICBM'S, AS WELL AS SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER, ARE MAJOR UNRESOLVED ISSUES IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS.

6. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES SAID CONGRESSIONAL CHALLENGE TO CARTER'S PLAN TO SELL FIGHTER PLANES TO ISRAEL, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA "WAS FURTHER EVIDENCE LAST WEEK THAT ERA OF IMPERIAL PRESIDENT IS OVER....DECISIVE TEST OF WHITE HOUSE LEADERSHIP IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOWEVER, LIES AHEAD, WHEN NEW STRATEGIC ARMS ACCORD WITH SOVIET UNION WILL BE PRESENTED TO SENATE FOR RATIFICATION....FAILURE TO WIN SENATE APPROVAL FOR NEW ARMS ACCORD, SOME SUGGEST, WOULD NOT ONLY HAVE PROFOUND IMPACT ON AMERICAN-SOVIET RELATIONS, BUT WOULD CRIPPLE PRESIDENCY FOR YEARS TO COME. IT IS NOT SURPRISING, THEN, THAT MR. CARTER'S CONTINUING COMBAT WITH CONGRESS OVER FOREIGN POLICY HAS LED TO SUGGESTION THAT EFFORTS TO GIVE SENATE AND HOUSE LARGER ROLE IN CONSIDERING

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AND IMPLEMENTING POLICY HAVE GONE TOO FAR, THAT PENDULUM HAS SWUNG TOO FAR AWAY FROM PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY."

7. ALTON FRYE, WASHINGTON DIRECTOR OF COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, SUPPORTED SENATOR SAM NUNN'S "SENSIBLE SUGGESTION" THAT MBFR NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD FOCUS ON MEASURES TO GIVE GREATER WARNING OF IMPENDING ATTACK. WRITING IN WASHINGTON POST SATURDAY, FRYE POINTED OUT THAT "EVEN WITHOUT ACTUAL CUTBACKS IN NUMBER OF WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO TWO BLOCS, IT WOULD BE QUITE USEFUL TO SEPARATE THEIR ARMOR FORCES. CARTER SHOULD SEEK MUTUAL TANK DISENGAGEMENT OF ABOUT 100 MILES ON EITHER SIDE OF LINE. MOVEMENT OF TANK FORCES INTO SUCH ZONE WOULD PROVIDE SIGNAL OF HOSTILE INTENTIONS, ALERTING DEFENDERS TO TAKE COUNTERMEASURES. WITH ANTI-TANK WEAPONS CONCENTRATED NEAR FRONTIER, THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD ADD NEEDED STABILITY ALONG FRONT." FRYE SAID WITHOUT COUNTER TO MOUNTING RUSSIAN CAPABILITIES IN EUROPE, "CARTER MAY FACE INSUPERABLE OBSTACLES TO COLLABORATION WITH THEM IN SALT."

8. IN AN EDITORIAL SUNDAY, BALTIMORE SUN DISCUSSED "GRAY AREA" WEAPONS SYSTEMS, WHICH NOW ARE "STRANDED IN NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN SALT AND MBFR." SUN SAID "IF 'GRAY AREA' NEGOTIATIONS EVER BEGIN, SS-20'S, BACKFIRES, AND CRUISE MISSILES WOULD LOGICALLY BE HIGH ON LIST." NEWSPAPER ALSO SAID IT "WOULD SEEM SENSIBLE" TO PLACE NEUTRON WARHEADS IN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE THEIR PURPOSE IS TO COUNTER SOVIET TANK BLITZ. "BUT BECAUSE NEUTRON BOMBS COULD SO EASILY SNAP NUCLEAR TRIPWIRE AND BRING INTERMEDIATE-RANGE SOVIET SS-20'S INTO ACTION, THEY, TOO, ARE REGARDED IN SOME QUARTERS AS 'GRAY AREA' WEAPONS." CALLING RECENT BREZHNEV-SCHMIDT DISCUSSIONS ON THIS TOPIC "IMPORTANT OPENERS TO NEGOTIATIONS" ON "GRAY AREA" WEAPONS SYSTEMS, SUN SAID "THOSE INTERESTED IN REAL ARMS CONTROL SHOULD APPLAUD FRONTAL ATTACK ON 'GRAY AREA' PROBLEM."

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9. WASHINGTON POST SAID SOVIET UNION, "CAPPING TEN-MONTH WORLD-WIDE PROPAGANDA EFFORT, WILL ASK U.N. SSOD LATER THIS MONTH TO APPROVE BAN ON ALL NEUTRON WEAPONS PRODUCTION. POST SAID SOVIETS ALREADY HAVE INTRODUCED INTO U.N. SESSION'S DRAFT "PLAN OF ACTION" LANGUAGE THAT CALLS FOR "MUTUAL RENUNCIATION" OF NEUTRON WEAPONS AS WELL AS "AN IMMEDIATE STEP" TOWARDS CESSATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUILD-

ING. POST SAID "U.S. AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES PLAN TO
OPPOSE PROPOSAL BUT AS ONE WASHINGTON OFFICIAL CONFESSED
RECENTLY, 'WE DON'T KNOW HOW HARD THIS ONE WILL BE PLAYED.'
UNDER PRESENT PLANS, U.N. PLAN OF ACTION MUST BE APPROVED
BY CONSENSUS, SO JUST NATO NATIONS' OPPOSITION COULD KEEP
IT FROM PASSING." VANCE

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